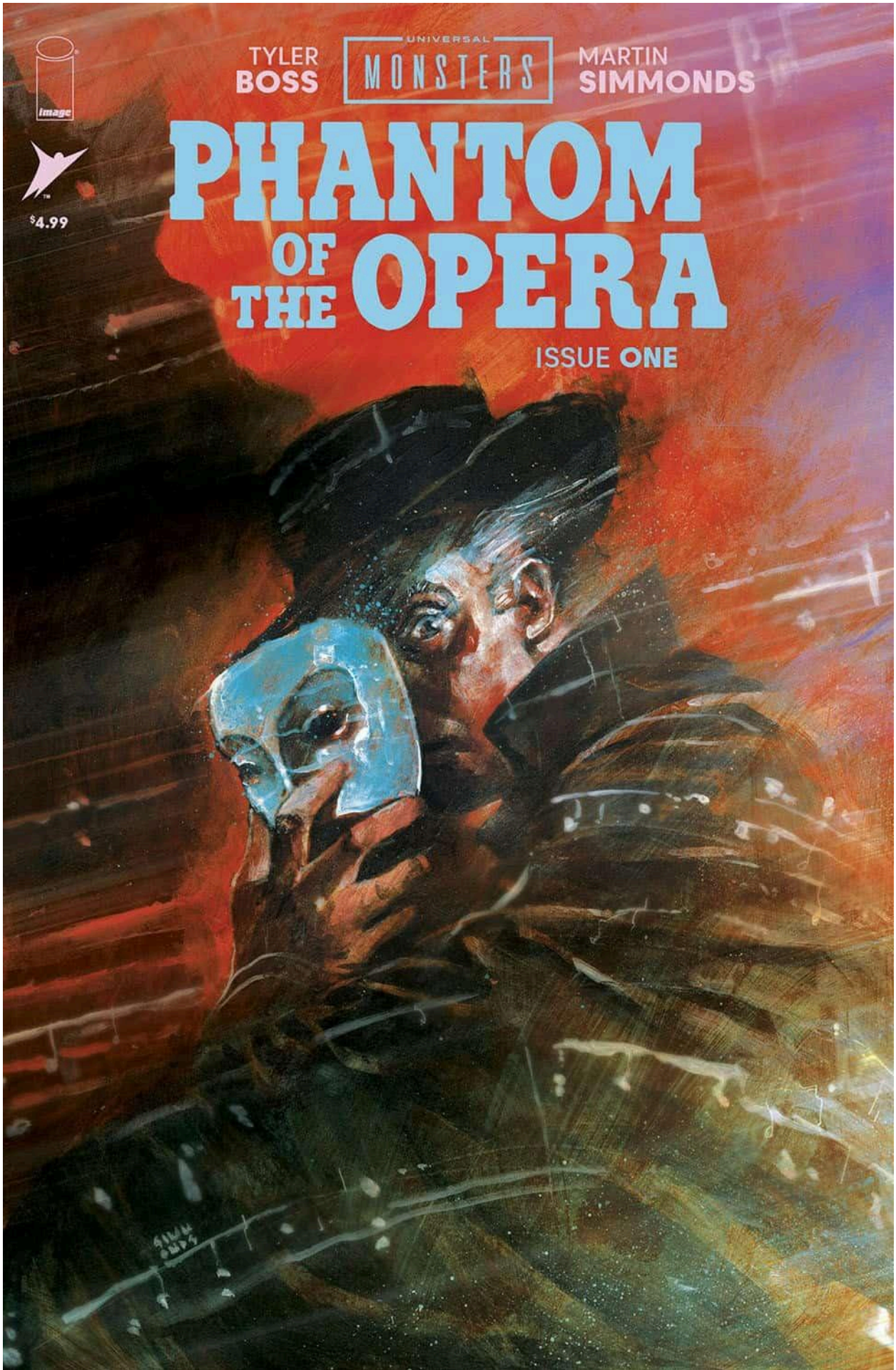
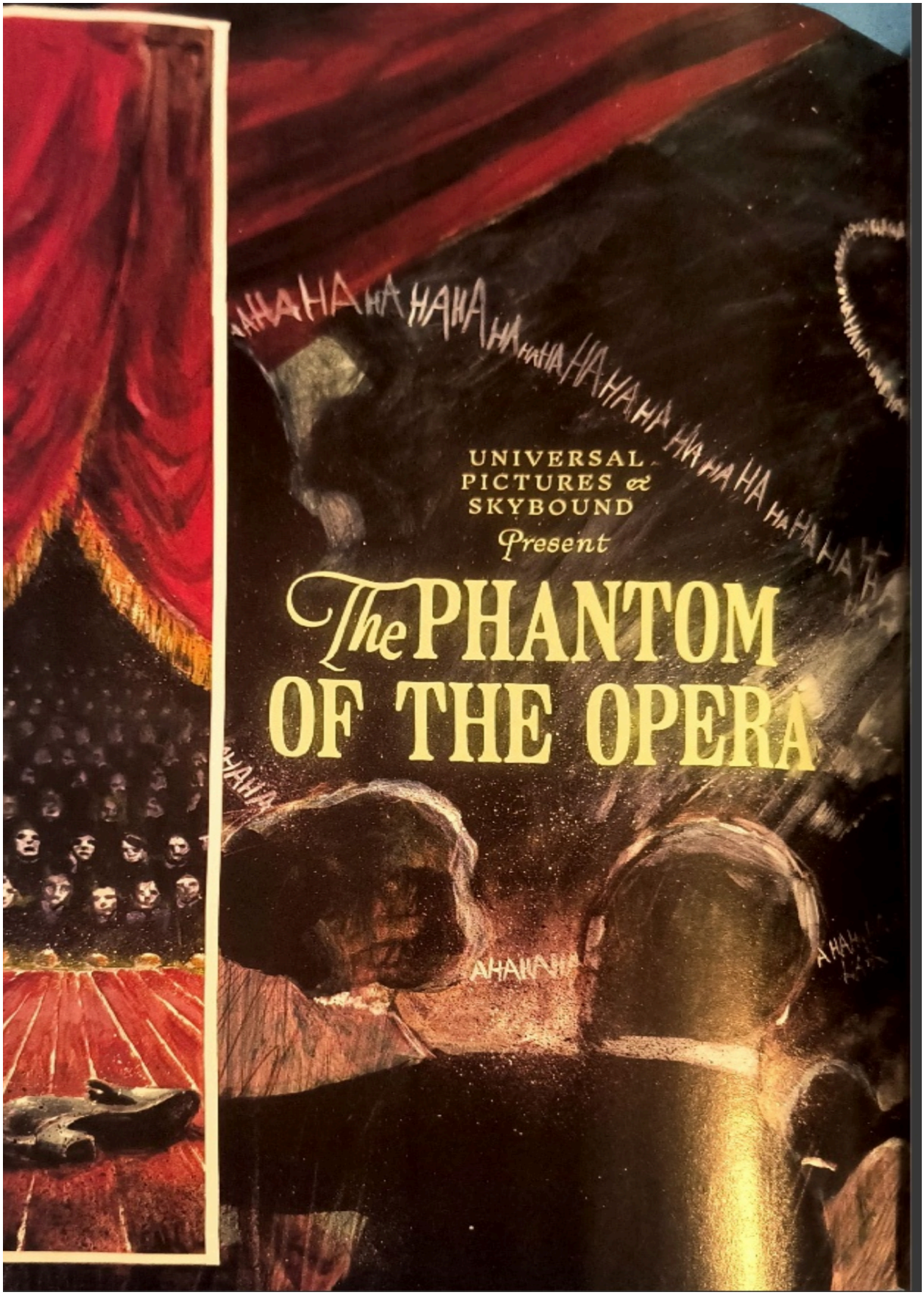

TYLER BOSS
UNIVERSAL MONSTERS
MARTIN SIMMONDS
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
ISSUE ONE
image
$4.99

SNIFFFFF
EVERYONE LOVES YOU. ALL OF PARIS WANTS YOU. THEY WISH THEY WERE YOU.

BANG
BANG
BANG
IN BOCCA AL LUPO.
MERCI, GIGI. YOU TOO.
WHERE IS THAT FOOL?
ANATOLE?


UNIVERSAL PICTURES & SKYBOUND
Present
The PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

НА НА НА

PLEASE! I NEED EVERYONE TO STAY IN THIS HALL UNTIL I'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK--
COULD IT HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT?
I MEAN, SHE WAS NO SPRING CHICKEN, PERHAPS...
IT WAS THE GHOST, I'M SURE OF IT.
THE GHOST?!
AYEEE!
HELP! POLICE!
IT CAME RIGHT FOR ME!
IT WAS THE GHOST! IT'S IN THE ROOM WITH US!
IF YOU'LL PARDON MY SAYING SO, I BELIEVE YOUR WIFE'S DERRIÈRE MAY HAVE BUMPED INTO--
INSPECTOR DUBERT?
THEY'RE READY FOR YOU.
THANK YOU, OFFICER.
THIS WAY, SIR.

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.
GOOD EVENING? I FEAR WE MAY HAVE VERY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF WHAT ONE CONSTITUTES, INSPECTOR.
OH, IGNORE HIM, HE'S JUST UPSET. HOW CAN WE BE OF ASSISTANCE, INSPECTOR?
MAESTRO, I WONDER IF YOU SAW ANYTHING UNUSUAL--
BESIDES OUR LEADING LADY'S TRIP TO THE GALLOWS POLE?
--ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP SHED LIGHT ON HOW MME. BIANCAROLLI MET HER... UNFORTUNATE END.
MY ORCHESTRA IS ALWAYS PRIMED AND READY AT HALF PAST SEVEN. MERCIER, OUR MANAGER, HAS TASK OF EVERYONE ELSE.
THE CHORUS WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TONIGHT. THEIR TALK OF "THE GHOST" MUST HAVE BEEN WHY OUR LEADING MAN, ANATOLE GARRON, SLIPPED MY MIND.
MY DRESSING ROOM WAS LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE! I BANGED AWAY AT IT, BUT NO ONE CAME TO MY AID, NOT EVEN THAT RAT CATCHER.
AYE, I'VE SEEN THE GHOST THEY SPEAK OF. JUST ASK THE ITALIAN.
CHE COSA?

KNOCK KNOCK
YES, PLEASE COME IN!
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, INSPECTOR?

GOOD EVENING, MADEMOISELLE. I'M INSPECTOR DUBERT. I NEED TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS EVENING.
DREADFUL, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, MME. BIANCAROLLI COULD BE A TERROR, BUT MURDERED? IT'S JUST...
OF COURSE I MUST BE A PRIME SUSPECT. THE UNDERSTUDY LOOKING TO CATCH HER BIG BREAK. BREAKS MY SENIOR'S NECK--
MADEMOISELLE?
I'M SORRY, I JUST... I HAVE THE STRONGEST SENSE THAT WE'VE MET BEFORE?
RIQUEWIHR?
EXCUSE ME?
ARE YOU NOT FROM THERE?
NO, IS THAT WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
NO, BERGHEIM.
WELL, THAT'S ONE MYSTERY SOLVED. I'M FROM BERGHEIM, AS WELL.
WAIT. IF YOU'RE FROM BERGHEIM, WHY DID YOU ASK IF I WAS FROM RIQUEWIHR?
I MEAN, WHO IS FROM BERGHEIM?
WE ARE...?
WELL, CERTAINLY SOME PEOPLE MUST BE FROM RIQUEWIHR.
I DO REMEMBER YOU...

YOUR FATHER... HE WOULD PLAY HIS VIOLIN AND YOU WOULD SING, AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS WOULD DANCE AND CLAP. ARE YOUR PARENTS WELL?
NO, THEY'VE BOTH PASSED.
OH, I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE--
QUITE ALL RIGHT. WE LOST PAPA TO THE WAR, AND MAMAN AROUND WHEN THE SICKNESS CAME.
MY FAMILY LEFT BEFORE THE PLAGUE ARRIVED. I'M SORRY IT TOOK YOUR MOTHER.
IT WAS A BROKEN HEART THAT TOOK HER.
INSPECTOR?
MM?
YOUR QUESTIONS FOR ME?
OH! RIGHT--
DING DING DING
IT'S...BEEN A LONG NIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST AND WE'LL TALK TOMORROW, YES?
IF YOU THINK THAT'S BEST, INSPECTOR.
PLEASE, YOU'RE A FELLOW BERGHEIM. CALL ME RAOUL.
GOOD EVENING, RAOUL.
GOOD EVENING, MME. DAAE.
CHRISTINE.

CHRISTINE...
MME
LEAVE PARIS TONIGHT, OR CEASE TO FEEL THE WARMTH OF ANOTHER SUN RISE.
FLEYEL & SONS PUBLISHING

NO. NO. NO. PLEASE. JUST STOP.

WILL IT MATTER IF WE TRY AGAIN? OR WILL IT JUST BE MORE OF THE SAME?
NO, I'M SORRY... I--
APOLOGIES ARE WORSE THAN FAILURE. IT MEANS YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN DO WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO, BUT WON'T. MY OFFICE--
WAS THAT MEANT TO BE IT?
MAESTRO VILLENEUVE, I--
CRACK!!
MY OFFICE, MME. DAAE.
CHRISTINE...

SNIFF
YES, ANATOLE?
IGNORE THE OLD GOAT, EH?
WE KNOW YOU'LL GET IT, LITTLE LAMB.
MERCI.
DON'T MENTION IT.
BUT ALSO... PROBABLY BEST NOT TO KEEP HIM WAITING, MM?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BEST HURRY.

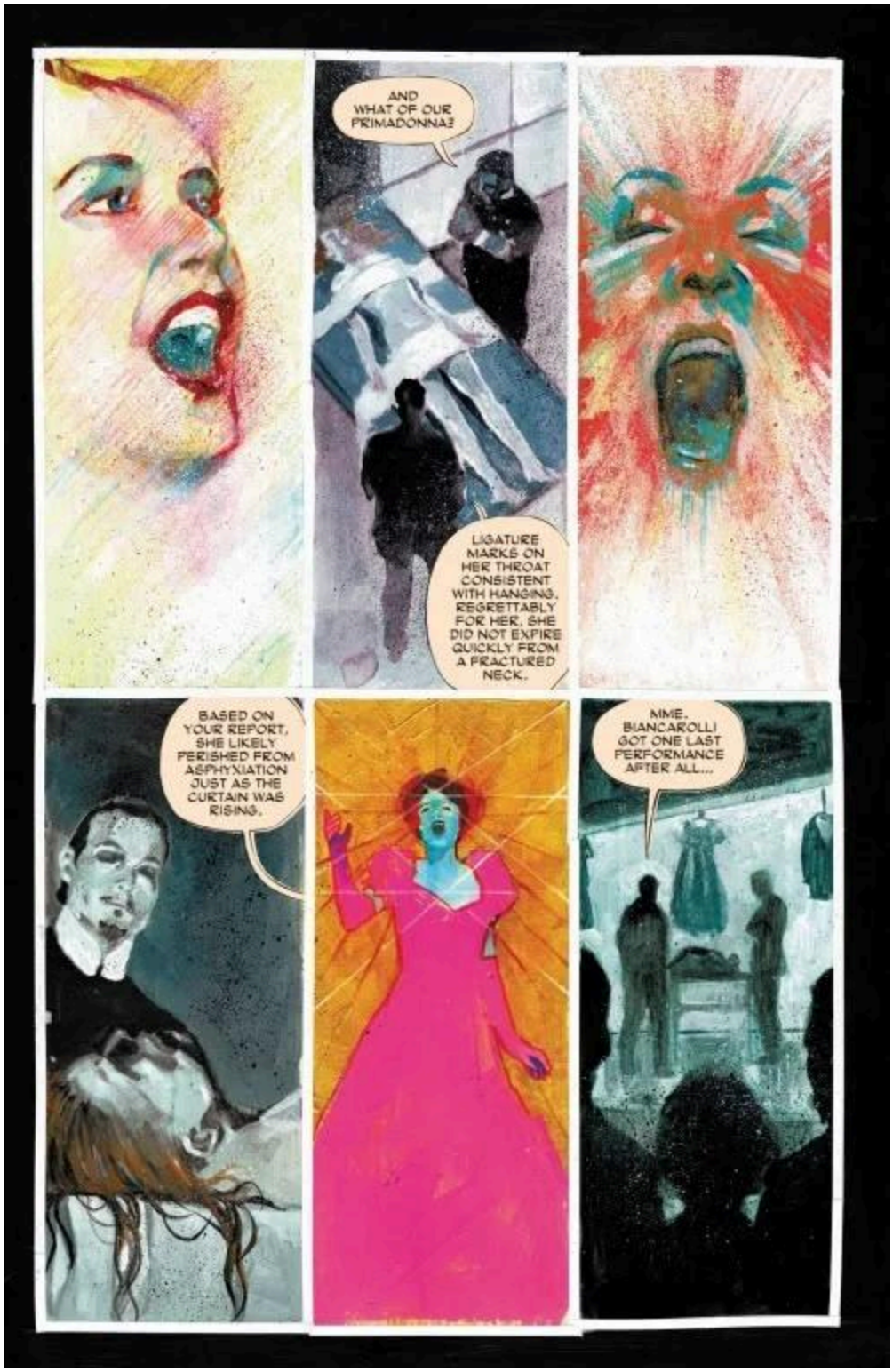
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME, YOU WON'T FIND IT INSIDE THERE, MONSIEUR. INSIDE ME, HOWEVER...
CUT ALORS! APOLOGIES, INSPECTOR! ONLY A JOKE.
IT'S OKAY, MADEMOISELLE. BUT IF I COULD TROUBLE YOU? HOW OFTEN DO YOU... IS THIS YOUR USUAL PLACE OF BUSINESS?
HAVE A GOOD DAY, INSPECTOR!
NO, PLEASE, I JUST--I'M LOOKING FOR THE PUBLISHER OF THIS HOUSE.
THE PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR A WEEK. SO MUCH FOR "THE SONS".
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PATOO!
PLEYEL, THE OWNER? HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY SONS.
SOME NONSENSE HE MADE UP TO GIVE THE PLACE A MORE FAMILIAL ATMOSPHERE. LET THE DEVIL HAVE HIM.
THE DEVIL?
SOMEONE MURDERED THE BASTARD A WEEK AGO.

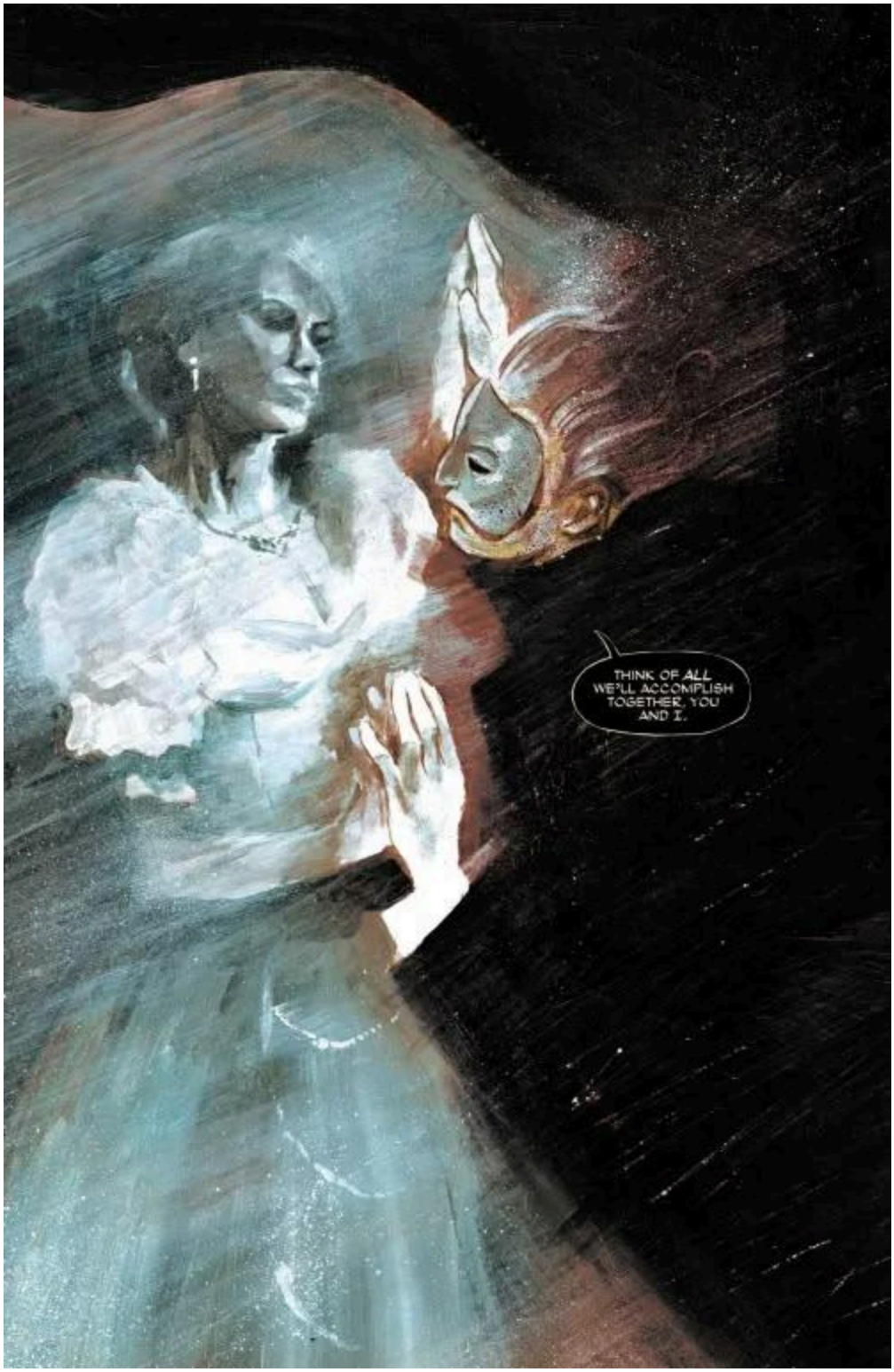
Under order of the Préfecture de Police
is under active investigation and
closed to the public until
further notice.
MADAME BIANCAROLLI
ANATOLE GARNON
FAUST
Mme. Biancarolli
ALL RIGHT.
AGAIN.
DAMMIT!
YOU'RE STRANGLING THE AIR FROM YOUR OWN THROAT, CHRISTINE.

...HELLO?
KEEP YOUR PALETTE LIGHT.
TRYING TO WRESTLE THE SOUND FROM YOURSELF WON'T WORK.
LIFT YOUR PALETTE AND INHALE, INSTEAD OF PUSHING OUT.
CREATE THE SPACE FOR THE AIR TO FLOW THROUGH YOU.
IN... AND OUT...
IT'S AS NATURAL AS BREATHING.

LIFT AND INHALE...
A PRIMADONNA AND A PUBLISHER...
IT'S AS NATURAL AS BREATHING...
INSPECTOR DUBERTE
IN...AND OUT...

THIS WAY.
MAURICE PLEYEL. HIS BODY WAS FOUND BY AN EMPLOYEE EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. HIS LARYNX WAS COMPLETELY CRUSHED.
THE IMPRESSIONS ON HIS NECK WERE LEFT BY ANOTHER'S HANDS, BUT IN ALL MY YEARS I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A VIOLENT FORCE.


AND WHAT OF OUR PRIMADONNA?
LIGATURE MARKS ON HER THROAT CONSISTENT WITH HANGING. REGRETTABLY FOR HER, SHE DID NOT EXPIRE QUICKLY FROM A FRACTURED NECK.
BASED ON YOUR REPORT, SHE LIKELY PERISHED FROM ASPHYXIATION JUST AS THE CURTAIN WAS RISING.
MME. BIANCAROLLI GOT ONE LAST PERFORMANCE AFTER ALL...


THINK OF ALL WE'LL ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER, YOU AND I.

FROM THE DESK OF **TYLER BOSS**

I'm going to see my son tomorrow. We have one last ultrasound scheduled now at 34 weeks pregnant. For the uninitiated, most people give birth anywhere between week 37 and 40. One last dress rehearsal before the big show and I'm starting to get a bit of nerves.

The Phantom of the Auditorium was my first encounter with the Phantom. My older brother was a big R.L Stein head. Its Tim Jacobus cover has always stood out from the others for how understated it is in comparison. When the musical was touring in 1998, my elementary school took us on a field trip to see a performance. Prior to that excursion, I was the type of 7-year boy who read comic books but thought musical theater was lame. When the lights dimmed and a man came on stage to seemingly auction off some garbage they found in the theater's basement, I thought my presupposition on musical theater may not have been totally correct. Turns out they're also boring. As I contemplated what I would spend time thinking about instead of watching what was happening on stage, a stray line from the auctioneer cut through.

"Lot 666 then."

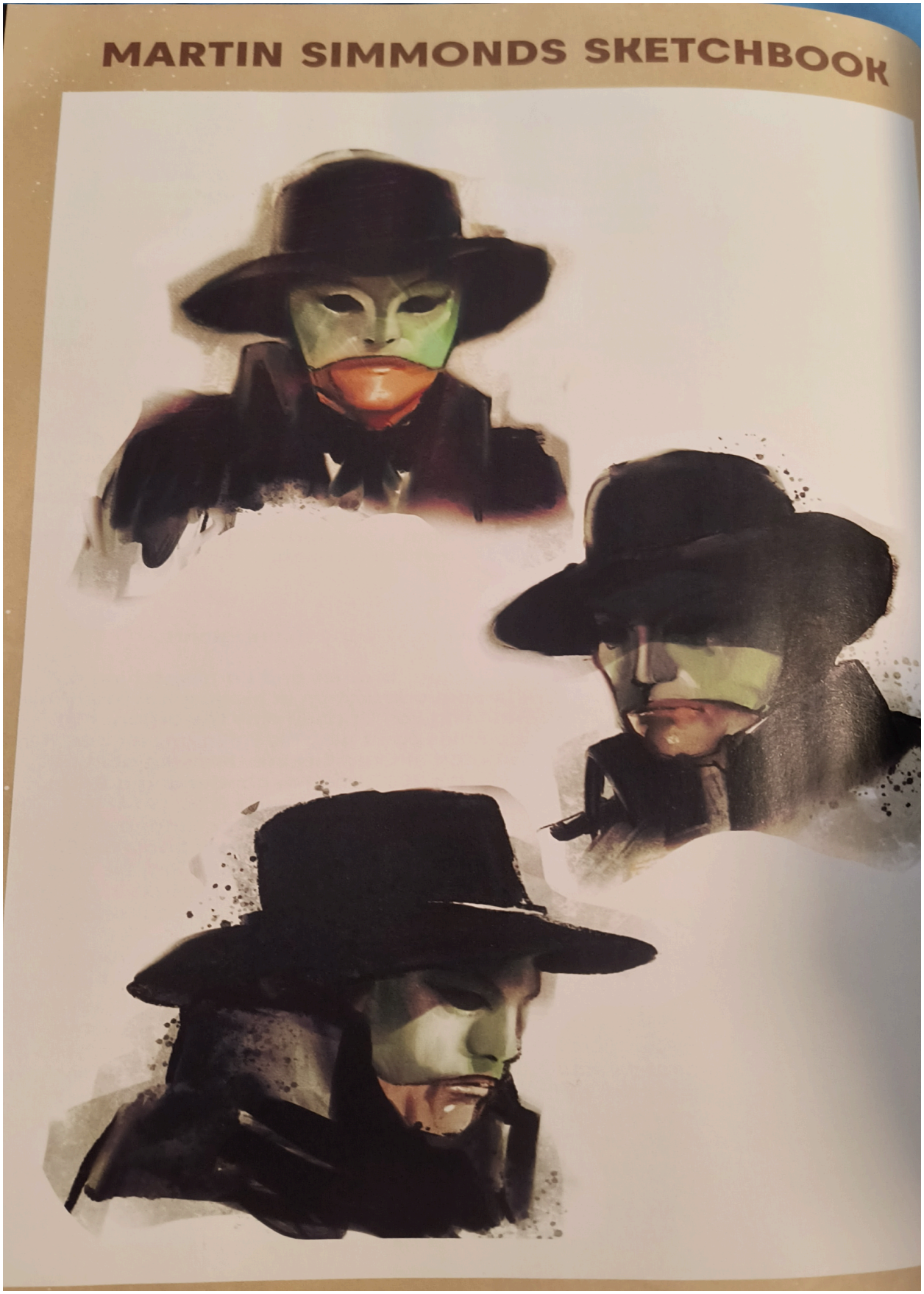
When the organ kicks in, I nearly shit my pants.

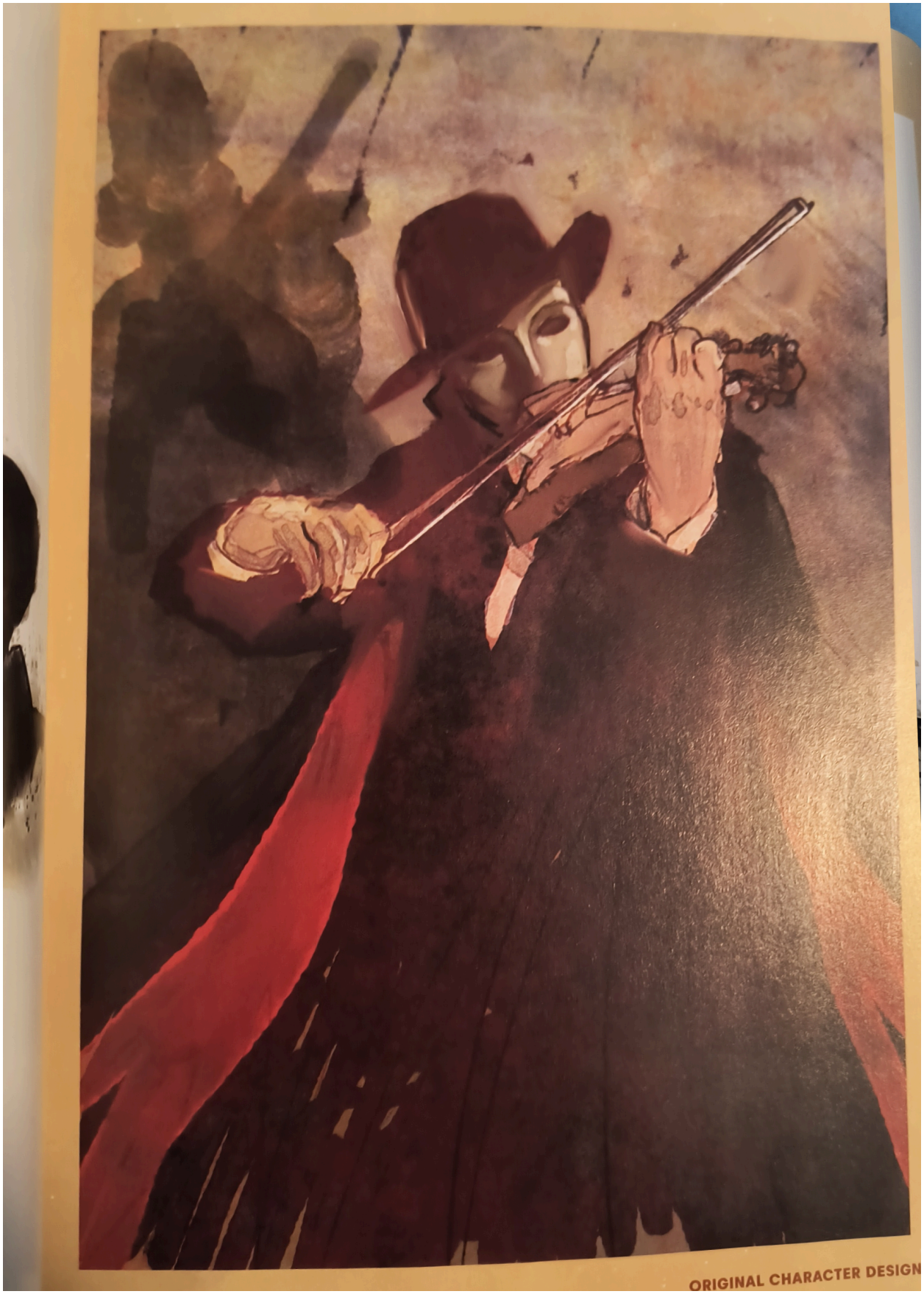
It's 2000 and my younger brother and I are watching a made-for-TV Phantom adaptation in his hospital room. It's 2006 and I'm watching Lon Chaney play the organ. It's 2010 and Claude Rains can't play his violin any longer. It's 2015 and a new batch of Gremlins are throwing acid in each other's faces. It's 2017 and I'm conducting a Brian De Palma retrospective and have made it to 1974. It's Thursday in late January of 2025 and Alex Antone just reached out asking if he could see my new book [illegible] *Bad Things*. I sent him the first issue at 3:09 PM. By [illegible] PM, Alex was asking when I could have my pitch [illegible] *Phantom of the Opera*. It was in his inbox that [illegible]

If you're reading this, you likely just finished reading the first chapter in our version of the haunting at the Palais Garnier. But if I may hazard a guess, this is also likely far from your first encounter with the Opera Ghost. Some characters touch something indelible in our collective unconscious. They can exist in different times and eras, but the core of them always remains. Gaston Leroux's book was published over a century ago, and yet the *Phantom of the Opera* is still here. Haunting, inside our minds.

-Tyler Boss
Buffalo, NY
12.17.2025

MARTIN SIMMONDS SKETCHBOOK





ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN

MONSTER MAIL

Got something to say? We want to hear from you! Email us at: UniversalMonsters@skybound.com and mark "OR TO PRINT!"

My fellow monsters!

Welcome to another edition of Monster Mail! Your humble Universal Monsters editor Alex Antone, at your service! We hope you enjoyed the first issue of Phantom of the Opera – it's a bold new take on the classic story rooted firmly in the 1943 film – and to no one's surprise, Universal Monsters legend Martin Simmonds is bringing the goods! And let's all welcome newcomer Tyler Boss into the fold! If you haven't checked out his Image series, You'll Do Bad Things, do yourself a favor and buy it at your local LCS today! And a tip of the cap to letterer Becca Carey, who is now lettering her THIRD Universal Monsters book...with more to come! Now, let's get into your letters from the last couple issues of THE INVISIBLE MAN!

I am getting caught up in the books as I am reading in trades. My few questions are...

1. Will there be a Wolfman book? Please for the love of all things!!!

2. Will there be a Bride series?

3. Have you had any talks about comics based off the Dark Universe?

Best to you!
Jonathan Tyler Patrick

Hello, Jonathan! Great questions. 1) Yes! 2) Yes! 3) Maybe! All the best to YOU!

Hi All,

It's been such a treat getting all these Universal Monster comics, but I can already tell The Invisible Man is going to be my favorite one just based on this first issue. The art and the writing are spectacular. I look forward to showing this to the man himself at Epic Universe next week.

Cheers.

Thank you, Dalton! James and DaNi really crushed it! Let us know what the Invisible Man thought of it. I bet he hated it...it's not exactly the most flattering portrait!

Hey there, me again

I noticed The Invisible Man didn't get connecting covers for the 1:10 incentives! This breaks my heart!! I love the cover art. What happened??

I am still protesting to get Dracula re-released with connecting art. I love that you are re-releasing it black and white, and I'll definitely buy those issues, but we need those connecting covers I love so much.

I'll keep championing this series, just as much as I champion my beloved covers.

Insanely yours,
Colin S

You know, it's funny, Colin. We received feedback from retailers that connecting covers weren't in demand these days, so when we had the opportunity to do 4 David Aja covers as a series, we figured that might scratch a different itch. But good news, Anwita Citriya has done 4 spectacular connecting covers for PHANTOM that you're definitely going to want to check out.

Dear Monster Mail:

Yes! Yes! YES! Invisible Man has always been my favorite Universal Monsters movie, so I've been waiting for your take on it for quite a while. And it's definitely worth it.

This is one character that has always deserved an origin story, and it's off to a great start. Griffin as the anti-hero is so darn brilliant and compelling, that I find myself rooting for him even as he drifts further and further into madness.

and fantastic use of shadows. And I have to give props to Brad Simpson and his choice of colors. They really set the mood.

These monster books are a nice change of pace from all the superhero books that find their way into my collection. Speaking of which, I heard the Invisible Man is dating the Invisible Woman. I'm not sure what they see each other...

Until next time,
Jobe Dubbs
Orange County, CA

Ha-ha! Excellent work, Jobe. Like Griffin himself, that joke really snuck up on us. We're glad you like THE INVISIBLE MAN! It's been a polarizing take, so do write in and let us know what you think of the rest

---

Questions, questions, so many questions (well, 3 anyway).

Any idea yet what the next series will be ? (Hairy fingers crossed for THE WOLF MAN)?

How about a one-shot with 3 completely silent short stories starring the Universal Monsters

And how about a one-shot comic which would collect all variant covers from every Universal Monsters series so f

I also think Mark Evanier and Sergio Aragones would be perfect for an Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein series.

Pirard Bart, Belgium

Pirard! Great questions. 1) C course! Stay tuned... 2) As t G.I. Joe Silent Missions edito you have my attention! 3) O so like a cover gallery, eh? Art of Universal Monsters! V interesting...

Dear Monster Makers,

First, Alex, congratulations o the new addition to your fa

whirring science equipment of Frankenstein's monster's "birth," but for your wife's sake I hope it's nothing like that.

I am loving The Invisible Man so far with the Edgar Allan Poe-esque brewing madness behind Jack's narration. The book, and my love of the movie, have inspired me to try for a good Invisible Man Halloween costume this year. I am deeply committed to dressing in Griffin's classic robe and pajamas look, but I can absolutely not find those distinct sunglasses anywhere (for a reasonable price)! I wouldn't go so far as to say it's driving me to Griffin levels of madness, but perhaps closer than I'd like. Halloween will likely be over by the time this sees publication, but if any of you there in the Skybound Laboratory have any leads then by all means send them my way - Griffin in issue #2 makes standing around in sunglasses look the kind of cool I want to be!

All the best,
Zac Pensol

Thank you, Zac! That's incredibly kind of you. Everything went well and thankfully, the hospital was nothing like Dr. Frankenstein's lab. I don't have a bead on cool shades but every artist had their own take on those glasses and they all looked great – so hopefully you figured it out. Do send us a picture!

Hello, Invisible Man Team,

Wow. I've stated before in previous letters that the Invisible Man is my favorite Universal Monster, and I'm glad to say, this book is now also my favorite Universal Monster comic we've gotten. For one, the art is amazing. It reminds me a lot of the work of the late, great Tim Sale. DaNi does a great job at capturing Jack Griffin and makes him absolutely terrifying in each panel. I also really love how DaNi has portrayed invisibility thus far. With all of that said, Tynion is, unsurprisingly, delivering on the story as well. I was pumped to see his name attached to this book and he yet again proves why. I appreciate how much of an understanding he has for the characters, and I love the approach he's taken for this book. While most of the other UM books thus far have been retellings of the original stories, I appreciate that this one has been more of a prequel story so far. I have a feeling that the final issue will end with Jack officially becoming the Invisible Man and will lead into where the original movie/book begins. This allows us to see a different part of Griffin while also still feeling very much in line with the original story. Can't wait to see how this books continues because I am having a blast with it so far. Keep up the great work!

Cason Jones
Sulphur Springs, Texas

Carson! So nice of you to write in. We're very proud of THE INVISIBLE MAN and of James and DaNi...can't wait to see what they do next!

Dear Monster Maestros,

One of my earliest memories is of my dad performing as a singing Igor as part of a monster-themed rock show called "Frank and the Steins". Specifically, I remember getting to meet the cast after the show, still in their unrecognizable and grotesque make-up. When I first saw them, as a five-year-old, I was terrified. That's when the monsters tried to comfort me, and their surprising friendliness was a revelation. Monsters could be so much more than just scary. Ever since then, monsters have fascinated me. The first Skybound Universal Monster book I picked up was Michael Walsh's "Frankenstein". When I read it, I was sent back to when I was five and first fell in love with monsters. Every series has been a delight, and I can't wait to see what comes next.

Thank you for the good reads,
Michael C. Hartnett
Las Vegas, Nevada

You're welcome, Michael! Walsh's FRANKENSTEIN was definitely a highlight for me as well. He gave the monster so much humanity. I think you'll see some of that in this book as well, but certainly a different flavor!

Hello there,

I'm writing today to ask 2 questions, but first. I've loved every single Universal Monster mini-series you have done so far. It's been great seeing new takes set in the familiar setting we all grew up watching on film. I just finished Issue 2 of The Invisible Man, and it's been incredible! He's my favorite out of all the Monsters, and I was so excited when you decided to do a take on him. Here's my questions now:

I know you can't say yes or no to what comics are coming out after The Invisible Man. Whether it be The Bride or Wolf Man, but do you plan on doing what I consider Universal Monsters that aren't under the brand itself, like Tarantula, The Mole People, The Deadly Mantis, or maybe a newer take on This Island Earth? I know it's more niche but it would be awesome to see some new stories with these characters!

And secondly, when writing these stories do you have people in mind when you see the catalog of Monsters or do you let the Writers and Artists pitch the ideas to the team?

Thank You,

Andrew Ready

Thank you, Andrew! Your letter made my day. In regard to your first question, we're focusing on the major monsters for now, but I'd love to do some deeper cuts eventually! As for your second question, I usually think about the monster first and which creator I'd like to see give their take on them, but the ideas themselves are up to the writer and the artist – and I've been so lucky to work with the very best in the biz on these books.

Thanks for all of your letters! Until next time...

MAKE MINE MONSTERS!

Alex
Los Angeles, CA